

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Katsumi AOYAGI et al.  
Title: METHOD OF DETECTING HEPATITIS C VIRUS  
Appl. No.: 10/577,853  
International Filing  
Date: 10/28/2004  
371(c) Date: 10/17/2007  
Examiner: Michelle S. Horning  
Art Unit: 1648  
Confirmation No.: 4864

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated October 11, 2011, concerning the above-referenced patent application. Applicant is paying a one-month extension of time fee to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: